

Filed for intro on 02/22/95
Senate Bill _____
By _____

House No. HJR0098
By Stamps

A RESOLUTION to name Daniel Smith "Grandfather of
Tennessee".

WHEREAS, Tennessee is blessed with a rich and diverse past, brimming with historic accomplishments and triumphs; and

WHEREAS, it was the heroic spirit of early pioneers that explored and settled the uncharted wilderness of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, one such pioneer, Daniel Smith, was born in Stafford County, Virginia on October 24, 1748, was educated as a surveyor at William & Mary College, and was married to Sarah Michie in 1773; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith was appointed deputy surveyor of Augusta County, Virginia, in 1773, and became a Captain of the Fincastle County Militia during the Revolutionary War; and

WHEREAS, he was later appointed to the North Carolina-Virginia Commission to survey the lands westward of their frontiers; and

WHEREAS, Daniel Smith emigrated with his family to the Cumberland Settlement, where he became Brigadier General of the Militia and Commander of the Mero District in 1788; and

WHEREAS, Smith was named Secretary of the Territory South of the River Ohio by President Washington in 1790, and frequently served as Acting Governor of the Territory; and

WHEREAS, he was among the drafters and signers of the state's first constitution in 1796, and was a prominent supporter of naming the new state of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Daniel Smith served as a trustee of the Davidson Academy, as a Sumner County Court Commissioner, and as a Presidential Elector; and

WHEREAS, Daniel Smith served as a U.S. Senator in 1798, was appointed as a U.S. Commissioner to negotiate treaties with the Cherokee Indians in 1802, and was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1805; and

WHEREAS, he was a devoted family man, an avid reader, and famous for the peach brandy he distilled; and

WHEREAS, Daniel Smith established a homestead twenty miles northeast of Fort Nashborough near the Cumberland River on Drakes Creek, which he named Rock Castle; and

WHEREAS, Daniel Smith retired from public service in 1809, and died at Rock Castle in 1818; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Jefferson said, "Daniel Smith was a practical surveyor, whose work never needed correction. For intelligence, well-cultivated talents, for integrity, and usefulness, in soundness of judgment, in the practice of virtue and in shunning vice, he was equaled by few men, and in purity of motive, excelled by none"; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That Daniel Smith be named Grandfather of Tennessee in honor of his many significant contributions to the panoramic and lustrous history of the Volunteer State.

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